

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound support for life.

Unfortunately, life is under attack in America right now. With the introduction of a Democrat budget that does not feature the Hyde amendment protections, taxpayers could soon be funding abortions—something that has been outlawed for many years.

Ending these safeguards is both unpopular and unrepresentative of the will of the American people. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize abortions that destroy the dignity of life and millions of unborn babies in America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES IN CHINA

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as the Chinese Communist Party marks a century of power, Americans must renew our efforts to hold this regime accountable for its human rights atrocities. The Chinese Government has imprisoned more than 1 million Uyghurs, persecuting this religious minority for their fundamental beliefs.

For 100 years, the Chinese Communist Party has committed gross violations of human rights, mass imprisonment, torture, and genocide. Now more than ever, Americans must stand strong with the people of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. We must support the Chinese people's right to free expression, their right to privacy, and the right to life itself.

As Americans celebrate the Fourth of July, we must remember that our freedom is much too precious to be taken for granted. As President Ronald Reagan said, freedom is a fragile thing, and it is never more than one generation away from extinction.

HONORING JOHN MCMAHON

(Mr. OBERNOLTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the career of an exemplary public servant in my district.

San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon will retire this month after 36 years of service to the people of San Bernardino.

His career started in 1985, when he was assigned to the Sheriff's station in

the town of Needles. And since then, he served in 15 different stations. He has served in every rank possible to hold in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, and he served as the sheriff of my county since 2014.

In that time, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department has become known as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the entire Nation under his exemplary leadership.

We thank him for his service to the people of our district, and we wish him and his wife, Shelly, the best of luck in retirement.

DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, recently, if you look at the CDC numbers, we hit an all-time record in drug overdoses for a 12-month period at 90,000. That is up from 45,000 only 6 years ago.

There are two dangerous trends that are going the exact opposite way than you would think, if we care about the people who died and their families.

First of all, because of the antipolice hysteria out there, the number of police are being reduced; and for that reason, at least in my area, they are no longer doing criminal investigations in some cities when there are drug overdoses.

Secondly, I think the major reason for the massive increase in deaths is the increase in fentanyl deaths—fentanyl being actually much more dangerous than heroin.

We now have this happening at a time when the Border Patrol is being pulled off the border to process unaccompanied minors and we have the horrible situation of not even increasing the budget of the Border Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, if we care about the 90,000 people who die every year of drug overdoses, it is time to start caring a little bit more about the border and care a little bit more about the number of police we have in our country.

SLOVENIA TAKES THE HELM

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the chairman of the U.S. Slovenia Friendship Caucus to commemorate today, July 1, as the first day of the Slovenia's presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Slovenia takes the helm of one of the EU's main decisionmaking bodies at a challenging time not just for the EU, but for the world at large. Slovenia will manage a Europe working to control the COVID pandemic, seeking to repair the economic and social damage from this virus; all the while dealing with the ongoing and critical issues with the EU and the U.S., such as countering Chinese and Russian influence,

bolstering cybersecurity, and charting an economic path for the future.

As Slovenia begins its 6-month presidency, it is doing so under the slogan, "Together. Resilient. Europe," which outlines an agenda where Slovenia seeks to facilitate the European recovery while also reflecting on Europe's future, strengthening the rule of law and European values, and increasing security and stability in the European neighborhood.

Slovenia officials have also made their intentions known to Balkanize the EU through engaging Western Balkan states which have yet been able to join.

Slovenia's presidential platform makes it clear they are up to the unique challenge. The challenge is not just recovering from a once-in-a-generation pandemic, but thinking strategically to promote a more resilient Europe in the future.

I wish our strong friend and ally, Slovenia, all the best.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. FITZGERALD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand for life and to speak about the removal of the Hyde amendment from President Biden's budget.

The President's decision to remove this lifesaving measure from his budget was disappointing, as this provision has been in every budget since its enactment in 1980.

H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, would correct this misguided omission from the President's budget for codifying the Hyde amendment into Federal law, preventing taxpayer dollars from funding abortions. In no circumstance should any American be forced to go against their conscience and publicly fund abortions with their tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration on H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1130

ENDING CRISIS OF CRIME ON CITY STREETS

(Mr. NEHLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis of crime on our city streets. Violent crime is up double digits in Seattle, Portland, Austin, Oakland, and major cities across our great country.

The increase in violent crime is the predictable result of liberal cities defunding and undermining their law enforcement, like in Austin, Texas, where the far-left city council cut \$150 million from their police budget. What did we see weeks later? A doubling in the number of murders.

Just this week, the police chief of Oakland, California, begged publicly for the city council not to cut the police department budget because it would result in more crime.

When you cut law enforcement budgets, you reduce the number of law enforcement officers. When you reduce the number of law enforcement officers, more criminals will be on the streets.

This is not rocket science. Stop attacking, undermining, and defunding law enforcement, and the crisis of crime will stop being a crisis.

GETTING ANSWERS ON COVID-19 ORIGINS

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of 4 million individuals across the world, including 600,000 Americans. It took the life of my mother-in-law, as well as the loved ones of many of my constituents in the community that I represent.

As we safely reopen our communities and evaluate lessons learned, we know no one wants to see another pandemic. As we hear of the new delta variant, I know I am not alone in wanting answers regarding the origins of COVID-19.

Reports of this virus having escaped from a lab must be taken seriously and looked into, especially as CCP refuses to cooperate with investigations into COVID-19's origins.

As we mark the CCP centennial, and it continues its quest to be the world's top economic, technological, and military superpower, it is more important than ever that we get to the truth.

This is a public health issue, economic issue, and a national security issue that, as we saw over the past year, will impact each of us.

RESECURING SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, in the 100 days Vice President Harris has been overseeing the border, an estimated 500,000 immigrants and thousands of pounds of drugs have flowed over the border into our country. Despite clear evidence of a worsening crisis, the Biden administration continued to dismantle effective policies.

When I visited the border, Border Patrol agents consistently expressed that eliminating the Remain in Mexico pol-

icy has brought on this current crisis. Now, the Biden administration is considering rescinding yet another successful policy, title 42, which allows CBP to expel adult migrants.

The data is clear. Human traffickers, drug smugglers, and criminals are benefiting from the Biden administration's open border policies. More fentanyl has been seized this year than in all of 2020.

Deadly drugs like fentanyl are flowing across the border into our communities, killing people in my district and all of our districts. Fentanyl was present in 75 percent of the overdose deaths in my home county of Luzerne County in the last year.

An open border is not some faraway problem. Consequences are reverberating across America. We must send a strong message of enforcement and resecure our southern border.

CALL FOR NATION TO RECOGNIZE SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today as I always do, with great respect for all and love of country at heart.

I rise today for a very special reason. Today is one of the days that I will cherish for the rest of my life. What I will do today is something that I believe will help us to commemorate an unfortunate circumstance that our country has been a part of.

This is the day that I will have the opportunity to bring to the attention of the Congress of the United States of America a very special resolution. This is a resolution that is supporting the designation of Slavery Remembrance Day.

The resolution proposes that August 20, 2021, serve as the first Slavery Remembrance Day. And this is done to remind us of the evils of slavery.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that as time has passed during my lifetime, there have been those who have sought to whitewash, to sanitize, the evils associated with slavery. This is a necessary resolution because this resolution will forever allow us to remember the horrors of slavery, the events that have shaped our current circumstances.

Slavery was our seminal sin. It was the sin that has, for too long—centuries, for too long—had an impact on the politics, the economics, the social standing of people in our country.

This resolution reads as follows. I shall not read it in its entirety today, but there are some portions of it that are exceedingly important.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the "Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021."

For those who keep records, it is H. Res. 517. It has been filed, and it has

more than 75 original cosponsors. I am saying original and more than 75 simply because, right up to the last minute, we were adding people, so more than 75 original cosponsors.

I shall do all that I can to memorialize the persons who are original cosponsors, and I shall seek additional cosponsors of this resolution.

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

Whereas we posthumously recognize the following Members of Congress, who served during and after the Reconstruction era, as honorary cosponsors of this resolution.

Their names are listed. I will not read them today. I want to do something very special when these names are mentioned, and they shall be mentioned in the near future. But their names are all here, persons who actually served in the Congress of the United States of America. These are persons who merit a special place in history because of all that they had to endure to serve our country.

Whereas, on August 20, 1619, the first 20 enslaved Africans were brought to what is now Fort Monroe, then Point Comfort.

At that time, the time that they arrived, August 20, 1619, it was Point Comfort. History has a way of reminding us of things. "Point Comfort," the place where 20 enslaved Africans arrived. Point Comfort.

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

Whereas African tribal chiefs captured, enslaved, and sold their captives to transatlantic slave traders.

You can't tell the story without telling the whole story. You have to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If there is a scintilla of a mistake in what I say, I would beg that people would contact me and let me know, because the truth about slavery must be told. And the truth is that African people sold other Africans into slavery.

Whereas over the period of the Atlantic slave trade, from approximately 1526 to 1867, millions of humans were abducted and shipped from Africa, and 10,700,000 arrived in the Americas as personal property.

Whereas the majority of enslaved Africans brought to British North America arrived between 1720 and 1780.

I do want to emphasize the fact that they were personal property, chattels. They could be bought; they could be sold. I do understand that this is a part of the history that we don't cherish. It is a part of the history that we don't care to recall, but it is a part of the history that we must remember.

We cannot allow ourselves to think, for any amount of time, that history will never repeat itself, and we have to be ever vigilant as to prevent history